

Message Text

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14

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AECE-00 AEC-11 NAS-01 NSF-04 L-03

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01

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P 150855 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4607

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7546

E. O. 11652 -- N/A

TAGS: JA, TECH

SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST CONCERNING ABCC CONTRACT

DEPT PASS AEC AND NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SCI FOR YODER

REF: TOKYO 7274

SUMMARY: FONOFF REQUESTS URGENT AND FAVORABLE DECISION
ON REQUEST CONTAINED REFTEL BECAUSE GOVT IS EXPERIENCING
TACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN DIET. END OF SUMMARY.

1. DURING REVIEW OF PROBLEMS INVOLVING ABCC (SEPTTEL),
FONOFF FIRST NO. AMER. DIV. DEP. HEAD MATSUURA STRESSED
INCREASING URGENCY OF FONOFF REQUEST (REFTEL) FOR USG
AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE DIET MEMBERS WITH COPY OF CON-
TRACT BETWEEN AEC AND NATIONAL ACADEMY WHICH GOVERNS
OPERATIONS OF ABCC. DURING PAST WEEK, FONOFF REPS
HELD SEVERAL STRATEGY SESSIONS WITH GOVT MEMBERS ON DIET
COMMITTEE WHICH REQUESTED CONTRACT. (UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRED BY OPPOSITION JSP
MEMBER). GOVT MEMBER OF COMMITTEE (MARUMO OF LDP) POINTED
OUT TO FONOFF THAT REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED
JUNE 12 WAS POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE 19 (WHEN FONMIN OHIRA IS
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BEING ASKED TO APPEAR) TO GIVE MINISTRY

TIME TO COME UP WITH CONTRACT, AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY COMMITTEE WILL REFUSE TO MEET IN ABSENCE OF HAVING CONTRACT IN HAND. THIS SITUATION EMBARRASSES RULING PARTY CAUSE ONE OF ITS THREE HIGH PRIORITY BILLS FALLS WITHIN JURISDICTION OF, AND HAS YET TO BE CONSIDERED BY, SAME COMMITTEE. MOREOVER, CONTRACT HAS ASSUMED GREATER RELEVANCE BECAUSE COMMITTEE IS NOW DISCUSSING REVISION OF LAW ON ATOMIC BOMB SURVIVORS (TO INCREASE PROVISIONS FOR COMPENSATION, MEDICAL CARE, ETC.). IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, WHICH THREATENS TO IMPEDE PROGRESS ON MAJOR ELEMENT OF GOVERNMENT' S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM, FONOFF HAS URGED EARLY AGREEMENT BY USG TO PROVIDING CONTRACT TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT FUTURE USE WHICH OPPOSITION COULD MAKE OF CONTRACT, WE UNDERSTAND SERIOUS PREDICAMENT WHICH GOJ FACES. FONOFF BELIEVES THAT NOT PROVIDING CONTRACT TO DIET MEMBERS WOULD ENTAIL GREATER POLITICAL RISKS THAN THOSE INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE MISREPRESENTATION OF ITS TERMS. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THEIR JUDGMENT.
DECONTROL 1/1/76
SHOESMITH

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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